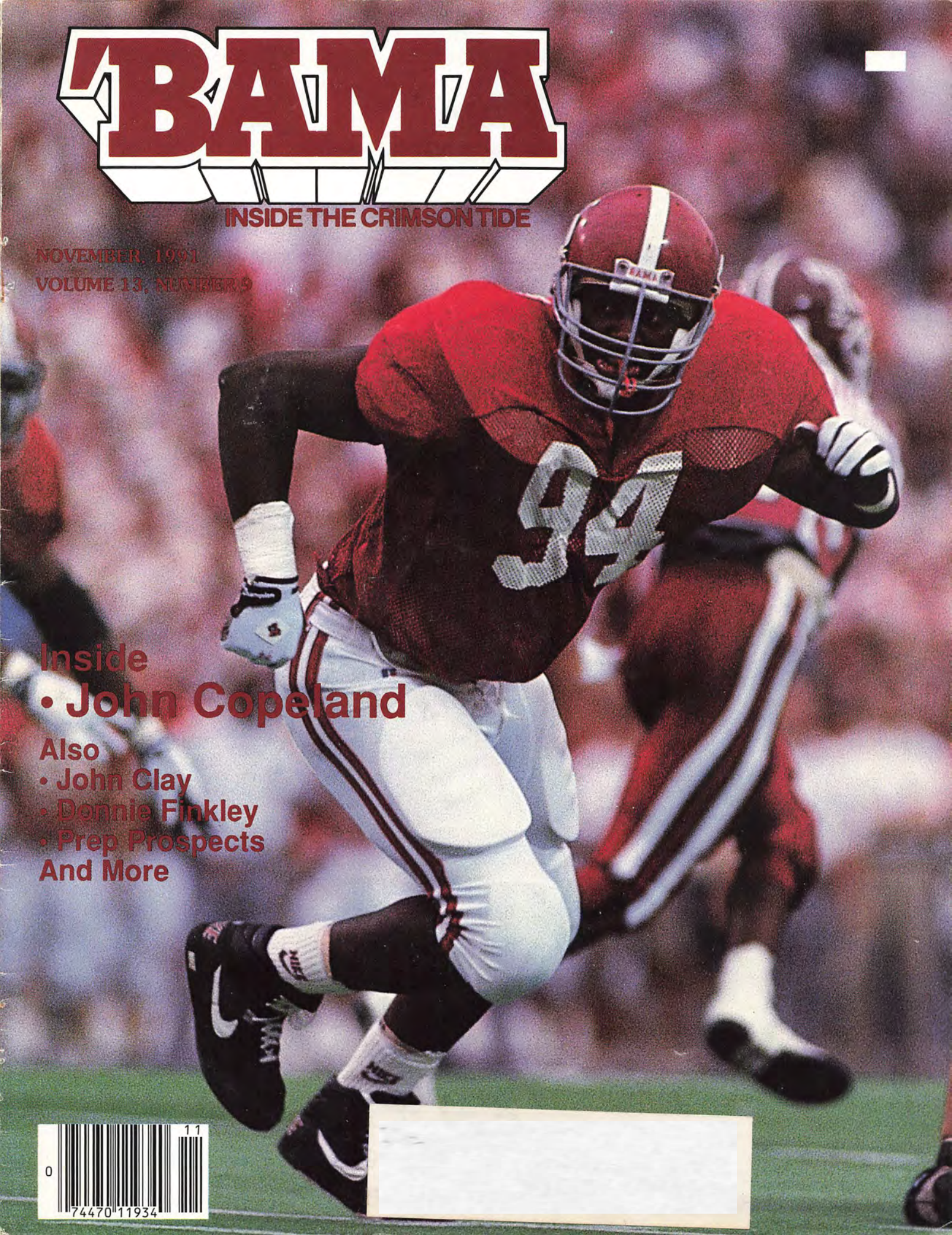
BAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

NOVEMBER, 1991
VOLUME 13, NUMBER 9



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The reader will enjoy the unique blend of facts and legends associated with the Capstone and will delight in the details of such familiar landmarks as Woods Hall and Denny Chimes. However, the author also describes less famous buildings and monuments, including one of the South's oldest observatories, a Tiffany memorial window honoring University cadets who served in the Civil War, and an engineering building with a simulated coal mine in the basement. A comprehensive survey of the University's buildings, the book provides information about architects, dates of construction, and architectural styles as well as facts about the persons for whom the buildings were named. This information results from a decade of research in the University's extensive archives, and much of it is published for the first time in this volume.

Robert Oliver Mellown is Associate Professor of Art, The University of Alabama.

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BAMA SCORECARD

Basketball Gets Bad Break

Alabama's basketball preseason practice got off on the wrong foot as junior college transfer guard Dennis Miller has suffered a broken foot that will probably keep him out of action until about the end of November. That left Bama with three men working at the point guard position: fellow junior college transfer Elliot Washington, freshman Bryan Passink, junior backup wing guard Kenneth Rice, and walkon Phillip Pearson. Then Pearson suffered a strained knee and will be out for at least three weeks. The Tide is also taking a little look at starting wing guard James Robinson at point. Of course, Robinson is still nursing a sore knee from surgery earlier this year; indeed, Robinson, who Alabama Head Coach Wimp Sanderson would much prefer not to play at point, has missed a few days of work and a few drills on days he does work in order to let the knee mend fully. On the plus side at point guard, Sanderson said he has seen good quickness from Washington in defensive drills.

Sanderson has been pleased with the work the team has given him, and particularly with the leadership and work habits of the three seniors–Robert Horry, Latrell Sprewell and Darby Rich. And he thinks the team was in good shape when drills got under way. (Bama worked twice a day through October 24, the 6 a.m. morning workout a learning walk-through for the afternoon practices). But he said the large number of newcomers, combined with the injuries, have made practices "a little ragged."

SEC Media Days

All Southeastern Conference basketball coaches (men's and women's), as well as selected players from each team, will meet with the media in Birmingham November 13-14. Following reports by each coach, the media will predict the outcome of the SEC race and pick a preseason all-star team. Look for Alabama's women to be picked low, but for senior forward Linda Burgess and freshmen guard Niesa Johnson, to get some all-star mention. The men will almost certainly be picked behind Arkansas and LSU in the West Division of the SEC, and probably about fourth overall (Kentucky in the East will also be picked higher). Tide senior Robert Horry and sophomore James Robinson are top all-star nominees.

All-Star Candidates

It's getting close to all-star time and Alabama's football team has a number of legitimate candidates.

In alphabetical order, the Alabama sports information office is nominating the following for post season honors:

Defensive ends John Copeland and Eric Curry, strong safety Stacy Harrison, cornerback Antonio Langham, outside linebacker Antonio London, cornerback Mark McMillian, running back Siran Stacy, nose tackle Robert Stewart, inside linebacker John Sullins and fullback Kevin Turner.

Additionally, true freshmen are nominated separately and Alabama has named cornerback Tommy Johnson, wide receiver/kick returner David Palmer, cornerback Sam Shade and offensive tackle Jon Stevenson as its honor candidates.

Incidentally, Langham and London were named co-defensive players of the week for their performance in Alabama's 24-19 victory over Tennessee by *College & Pro Football Newsweekly*. And center Tobie Sheils, who has a 3.1 grade point average in commerce, has been named a winner in the Honda Scholar-Athlete Award program with a $3,000 scholarship donated to The University's general scholarship fund in his name.

There are also a few national awards with pre-determined candidates and Bama has some nominees in those areas. Robert Stewart is one of 12 nominees for the 1991 Rotary Lombardi Award, given annually to the college football lineman of the year. A nationwide committee of college coaches, sportswriters and sportscasters selected the field of 12, which will be cut to four semifinalists November 5. The winner will be announced in Houston December 5. Former Tide linebacker Cornelius Bennett won in 1986.

John Sullins is on the initial list of candidates for the Butkus Award, which is awarded annually to the nation's top linebacker by the Downtown Athletic Club of Orlando. Three semifinalists will be named November 17 with the winner being announced December 7. Former Tider Derrick Thomas won in 1988.

Also, Kevin Turner has been nominated for the Doak Walker Award, given annually to the nation's best running back. He is one of 27 nominees.

And while we ordinarily think only of players when it comes time for all-star teams and individual honors, Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings is certainly in for consideration as Coach of the Year. Additionally, each year a Southeastern Conference Working Coach of the Year award goes to an assistant coach. The job Bama's Assistant Head Coach (and *de facto* Offensive Coordinator) Mal Moore has done with the Alabama offense in general and Tide quarterback Danny Woodson in particular puts him in line for that title.

Another Commitment

The *Birmingham Post-Herald* has reported a second Alabama high school football player as committed to sign with Alabama when prep signings begin February 6. Ozell Powell, a 6-7, 240-pound defensive end, who is academically eligible, told the newspaper he would sign with the Crimson Tide. He was listed as the state's number 7 prospect on *The Tuscaloosa News*' preseason Sweet 16 list.

Baseball Fall Work Successful

Alabama Head Baseball Coach Barry Shollenberger believes the Crimson Tide got a lot done in a short time, a necessity of fall practice this year because of new NCAA rules. Beginning this year the baseball team, as all other NCAA athletes, was limited to a practice week of no more than six days and no more than 20 hours. Additionally, the practice games ordinarily scheduled against other schools were discontinued.

Shollenberger said, "I feel good about positions one through eight (all but pitcher). Our position players are as settled as could be. That's what fall practice is for; to get a starting lineup for the spring." He said pitching is still a question mark. "This fall we didn't have time to develop a real staff. We had good performances, but I don't know who the full staff would be right now."

He said a strength for the Tide is that "both our shortstop (Juan DeBrand) and our third baseman (Jerry Shelton) return. It's always good to have the left side of your infield strong. Mick Kerns (the center fielder who was drafted, but elected to return for his final year of eligibility) has the potential to be an All-America."

Baseball practice resumes in January with the first game set for February 15. Bama has 31 games scheduled at Sewell-Thomas Stadium in 1992.

Player Origins

Sidelines, a publication of the College Football Association, has researched the state of origin of each of the 11,459 players (including walkons and freshmen) on the preseason rosters of the 106 Division 1A college football programs. To the surprise of no one, the big population states of the Sun Belt provide most of the players: California first with 1,545 current players calling California home; Texas second with 1,422; and the western and southern states providing a total of 6,676 players, 58.3 per cent of the total.

The report noted that analyzing the regions by average number of players per state indicated the South (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee) was the most popular area for producing college football players. The 2,736 players from those states calculates to an average of 304 per state, compared to 281 per western state, 221 per midwestern, and 122 per northeastern.

The survey was a repeat of a similar one made in 1988. In four years the state of Alabama went from providing 254 players to providing 314, a gain of 60, or 23.6 per cent. The biggie in the Southeastern

Conference states is Florida with 768 from that state playing in Division 1A. Other totals are Georgia with 378, Louisiana 344, South Carolina 306, Mississippi 224, Kentucky 149, Tennessee 134 and Arkansas 82.

The schools drawing players from the greatest number of different states was not much of a surprise. The three military academies were all high, Navy (players from 37 states) and Air Force (28) ranking one-two. Nebraska and Notre Dame were at 27. The Southeastern Conference school with players from the widest range of states? If you guessed Tennessee (22) or Kentucky (21) you would be close, but the leader was Ole Miss (23). On the preseason roster, Bama has players from 17 states.

Feeding the NFL

Football players from Southeastern Conference teams accounted for 135 of the players on National Football League rosters on opening day. Alabama is in the middle of the pack with 13 former Crimson Tide performers listed.

Tennessee had the most former players in the NFL, 24, followed by Auburn with 22, Florida with 19 and LSU with 18. Georgia was right behind Bama with 12, followed by Kentucky (10), Ole Miss (9), Mississippi State (6) and Vanderbilt (2). Incoming SEC teams, Arkansas and South Carolina, provide 9 and 3 respectively.

Former Alabama players in the NFL are linebacker Cornelius Bennett at Buffalo, tight end Howard Cross (New York Giants), defensive end Jon Hand (Indianapolis), cornerback Chris Goode (Indianapolis), linebacker E.J. Junior (Miami), linebacker Keith McCants (Tampa Bay), cornerback John Mangum (Chicago), punter Chris Mohr (Buffalo), defensive tackle Mike Pitts (Philadelphia), defensive end Larry Roberts (San Francisco), quarterback Jeff Rutledge (Washington), linebacker Derrick Thomas (Kansas City) and defensive tackle George Thornton (San Diego).

Basketball Predictions

Many preseason basketball publications are now on newsstands and most of them pick Alabama as the fourth best team in the Southeastern Conference (and third best in the tough West Division). However, one publication, *SEC Basketball Preview* out of Lexington, Kentucky, picks Coach Wimp Sanderson's Crimson Tide fourth in the SEC West. In most predictions Arkansas and LSU from the West and Kentucky from the East are ranked higher than Bama. *SEC Basketball Preview* puts Auburn ahead of Bama in the West.

Incidentally, in the women's section of the magazine Alabama is picked 10th. Tennessee and Vanderbilt are one-two.

Guards Are Praised

Alabama Head Women's Basketball Coach Rick Moody was typically coach in his appraisal of his team's first 10 days of practice; that is to say he was pessimistic. "We're certainly not ahead of schedule," he said. "I don't think we're even on schedule. I believe these are the players who can eventually run the kind of system I plan to run. Our guards absolutely work their behinds off everyday. They go as hard as they can full court."

Training Time

Three members of the recently named U.S. National swimming team will use Alabama Head Coach Jonty Skinner and Alabama's Aquatic Center as their training facility this year. They are: former Tide great Jon Olsen; Angel Myers Martino, the American record holder in the 100 freestyle who is married to Tide graduate assistant coach Mike Martino; and Troy Dalbey, a two-time 1988 Olympic Gold Medalist.

One aspect of the United States Olympic Team coaching staff in 1992 is that some assistant coaches will be selected based on the number of Olympians who train under them. Most observers feel all three of those training under Skinner will make the team in a total of perhaps seven events, making Skinner a good bet to be chosen as one of the coaches.

Volleyball In Stretch Run

Alabama's still young volleyball team is in the stretch run and thinking "Post season play." Bama Head Coach Dorothy Franco-Reed started the Bama program less than three years ago and still has no seniors, but thinks the Tide might make it. "If we place fifth in the SEC, I'm almost sure we'll go. If we place sixth, there is still a possibility." Post season play includes both the NCAA Tournament, which may take as many as five Southeastern Conference teams, and the National Invitational Volleyball Championship Tournament. Four SEC teams–LSU, Florida, Georgia and Kentucky–have been regularly ranked among the nation's top 20 this year.

At the midpoint of the season, Bama is around the .500 mark overall and has a few SEC wins (although an early season victory over Auburn did not count as an SEC game). One of Bama's conference victories was historic, newcomer South Carolina's entry into SEC play in any sport.

Alabama has been hampered by a knee injury suffered by middle blocker Andrea Miller, who has played in a brace all year.

A highlight of the season thus far, in addition to the win over Auburn, was winning the championship of its own Crimson Classic. The Tide's freshman class has been outstanding, particularly Marta Bickert, who has emerged as one of the top players in the SEC.

November will be critical to Alabama's success this year. Bama was to start the month with three straight home matches in Foster Auditorium (Ole Miss on the first, UAB the fifth and LSU the eighth). Bama goes to Auburn November 15 and Florida November 17 before hosting Georgia November 22 and South Carolina November 23. The SEC Championships will be in Mobile November 29-December 1.

Corrections

In the October issue of **'BAMA**, a feature story on freshman linebacker Michael Rogers said that he had been a Proposition 48 casualty in 1989, then redshirted last year. That is incorrect. Rogers was not an academic casualty, but rather was a true freshman in 1990 when he was redshirted and is now a redshirted freshman with three years of eligibility following this season.

Also in that issue, we were careful to get the exact heights of Alabama's 1991-92 men's basketball players for the roster, then managed to foul up some of the classes. Robert Horry and Latrell Sprewell, both listed as juniors in that roster, are seniors.

And in our report on high school football prospects we had the wrong first name for Jason Mullins of Dothan Northview.

Tide November Sports

11-1–Women's volleyball vs. Ole Miss, Foster Auditorium
11-1–11-4–Men's tennis at Region III Indoor, Athens, Ga.
11-1–11-3–Women's tennis hosts SEC Coaches Championship
11-1–11-3–Women's golf at Tide-Tiger, Destin, Fla.
11-2–Men's and women's swimming vs. LSU, Aquatic Center
11-2–Football vs. Mississippi State, Bryant-Denny
11-4–Men's and women's cross country at SEC Championships, Athens, Ga.
11-5–Women's volleyball vs. UAB, Foster Auditorium
11-8–Women's volleyball vs. LSU, Foster Auditorium
11-8–11-10–Women's tennis at Regional Championships, Athens, Ga.
11-9–Football at LSU
11-9–Women's basketball vs. Australian team, Coleman Coliseum
11-14–Men's basketball vs. Czech team, Coleman Coliseum
11-15–Women's volleyball at Auburn
11-16–Men's and women's swimming at Delta State
11-16–Men's and women's cross country at Region III, Greenville, S.C.
11-16–Football at Memphis State
11-17–Women's volleyball at Florida
11-18–Men's basketball vs. High Five America, Coleman Coliseum
11-21–11-23–Men's and women's swimming, Fall Invitational, Aquatic Center
11-22–Women's volleyball vs. Georgia, Foster Auditorium
11-22–Women's basketball at Tulane
11-23–Men's basketball at Davidson
11-23–Women's volleyball vs. South Carolina, Foster Auditorium
11-25–Men's and women's cross country at NCAA, Tucson, Ariz.
11-26–Women's basketball vs. Alabama State, Coleman Coliseum
11-27–Men's basketball vs. Tennessee Tech, Coleman Coliseum
11-29–11-30–Women's basketball in DePaul Tournament, Chicago
11-29–12-1–Men's and women's swimming in U.S. Open
11-29–12-1–Women's volleyball in SEC Championships, Mobile
11-30–Football vs. Auburn, Legion Field, Birmingham

Century Of Champions:

Year Of Celebration Shaping Up

by John Barnes

Everyone will have an opportunity to take part in Tide football centennial

Century of Champions. The slogan says it all. The University of Alabama will mark its 100th year of football in 1992 and efforts have been made to make it one of the most comprehensive centennial celebrations in the history of college football.

Steve Townsend, associate athletics director and co-chairman of the Centennial Committee appointed by University President Dr. Roger Sayers, said the yearlong celebration will involve students, fans, alumni, players, coaches and anyone else who appreciates one of the greatest success stories in the history of college athletics. "We are in the process of developing a game plan for the year involving marketing strategies to make our fans and players proud of our heritage," Townsend said.

It is indeed a heritage of which we can all be proud. Eleven national championships, 19 Southeastern Conference championships, 43 bowl game appearances, 86 first team All-Americas and more than 200 first team All-SEC performers.

Serving with Townsend as co-chairman is Dr. Finus Gaston, associate director of business and University Purchasing Manager. Townsend and Gaston will head a twelve person committee comprised of University faculty and staff members, former players and media experts. Among the committee members are Dale Allison, director of University Relations; Dean Tom Jones, faculty chairman of athletics; Dr. James McLain, assistant dean and University Research Professor in the College of Education; Emily Moore, curator of the Paul Bryant Museum; Dr. Kathleen Randall, director of student life; Dr. Roy Smith, registrar and director of admissions; Pat Whetstone, director of alumni affairs; former players Jerry Duncan and Harry Lee; John Forney, longtime radio Voice of the Crimson Tide and now host of the Gene Stallings television show; Charles Land, publisher (and former sports editor) of *The Tuscaloosa News*; and Alf Van Hoose, former sports editor of *The Birmingham News*.

In addition to the committee, two outside firms have been retained to implement and oversee all marketing aspects of the celebration. Host Creative Sports of Birmingham (an Alabama arm of Host Communications of Lexington, Kentucky) and The Collegiate Licensing Company of Atlanta have joined forces to created Centennial Marketing and they have a number of projects planned to commemorate the occasion. Host will handle all media-related projects while former Alabama star Bill Battle's Collegiate Licensing Company will oversee all merchandising efforts. The number of items available will indeed boggle the mind. Clothing, crystal sets, trading cards and many other items will be available at officially licensed outlets and will bear the centennial logo.

Also available will be a three-part video package documenting the entire history of Alabama football. Although still in the early phases of production, the tapes are planned to include the many famous and some not-so-famous moments in Crimson Tide history. Tape one will be dedicated solely to Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant and his career at the Capstone. Tape two will focus on the great players and teams over the last century. The third tape will highlight the great games and plays that brought Alabama to national prominence. The producers hope ABC's Keith Jackson can be retained to serve as narrator for the video series.

Alabama fans can also look forward to a special-edition centennial print by sports artist Daniel Moore. Moore, best known for his paintings of such great moments in Alabama football as "The Goal Line Stand" and "The Kick," has been commissioned by The University to be its official centennial artist. Moore said the painting has been his most difficult, yet most rewarding, project to date. "It is indeed a painstaking process to capture the essence of Alabama's football history in a single painting," Moore said. "I have tried to capture the spirit of Alabama's great tradition, while maintaining a sense of order and chronology. It's a tremendous challenge, but I honestly feel that upon completion it will be my best work yet." As in Moore's other paintings, there are subtleties in the centennial work, hints that Alabama's second century of football will be as successful as the first. Although the painting is not yet finished, Moore hopes it will be unveiled sometime before Christmas.

Another hot item will be the official

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"Crimson Memories" calender. The calender contains more than 200 photos, some dating back to the turn of the century. The calender is on sale now.

Two books have been published that chronicle Alabama's football history. *100 Years of Alabama Football* by Gene Schoor is a hardcover, coffee-table-sized book that takes an in-depth look at Alabama's gridiron exploits through historical anecdotes and rare photographs. *Birmingham News* Sports Editor Wayne Hester has compiled a more moderately-priced, soft cover book which examines the newspaper's coverage of Alabama Football. *Century Of Champions* includes articles by former sports editors Zipp Newman, Benny Marshall and Alf Van Hoose, as well as numerous photos from the *News*' archives.

Perhaps the most anticipated event will be the selection of an all-century team. On November 24, a promotional insert will be placed in several Alabama newspapers. In addition to extensive information on the centennial, the insert will contain the official Team of the Century ballot. All former players with all-star status (All-America, All-Southeastern Conference, All-Southern Conference) will be featured on the ballot and listed by position. Fans will select an offensive team, defensive team, punter, place kicker and coach of the century. A brief biography will be provided for each player on the ballot, enabling fans to make the most informed choice for each position. (The ballot will appear in the December issue of **'BAMA**.)

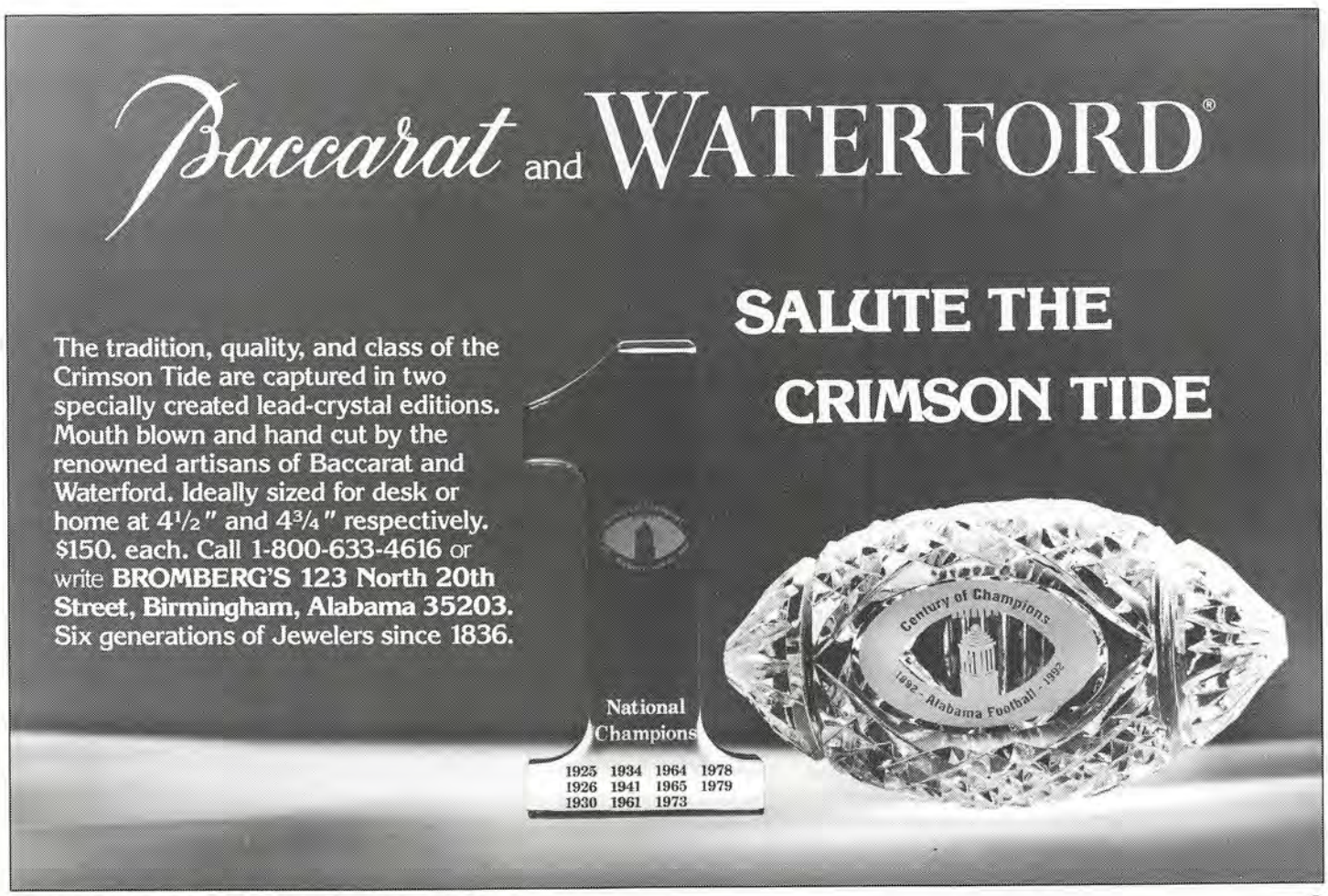
Steve Townsend

The balloting is being conducted by Citation Promotions of Birmingham. The ballots will be compiled and tabulated by Citation, with results forwarded to the athletics department for a spring announcement of the team of the century. The University will honor those selected at a black tie gala at the Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center in July.

The official kick-off for the celebration will be April 11, 1992. Following the traditional A-Day game will be the "Football Centennial Festival" on the main quad. A number of activities are planned including live entertainment, food and merchandise tents. Former players will be on hand for autographs and photo opportunities. The day will be capped off with a concert by country music supergroup "Alabama" at Bryant-Denny Stadium.

Overall, it promises to be a memorable year. Although many activities are still in the planning stages, fans and alumni can look forward to one of the most enjoyable football seasons in recent memory.

All proceeds from "Century of Champions" will benefit the University's general scholarship fund.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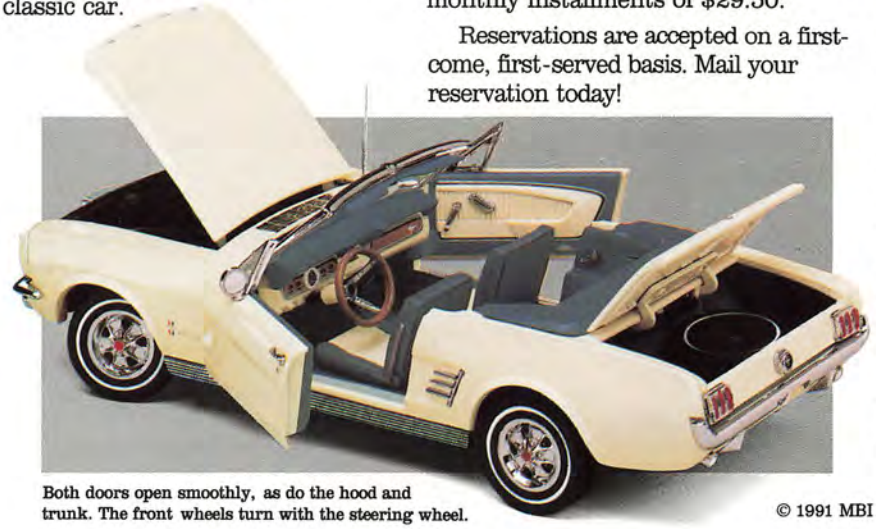

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John Clay:

A Change For The Better

by Rush Garner

Former linebacker has made moves and decisions which are in best interest of him and Tide football

When John Clay first stepped on the campus at the University of Alabama he was in awe. Not only had he gone from tiny Baylor Academy in Chattanooga, Tennessee, to Alabama, but he had also gone from being the premier player on his team to a relative unknown. "It was hard at first because when you are being recruited they tell you everything you want to hear just to get your commitment, and then you get there and it's not as glamorous as they made it out to be." Although he admits it was sometimes frustrating, change is one thing Clay has shown a remarkable propensity for. The switch from high school to college, from defense to offense and his subsequent change in weight, and a coaching change which, for an impressionable 18-year-old, could have been interpreted as a vicious betrayal, all are testament to his will to succeed.

Albeit, there are more difficult transitions for a young man than going from an all boys school at Baylor to being thrust into a co-ed campus such as Alabama, Clay won't deny he had a few close calls on campus. "The first time I drove to class I wasn't used to seeing a lot of girls around and I almost had four wrecks. From then on I decided to walk to class." After being the focal part of the football team and a very big man on campus in high school, Clay came into an atmosphere which was extremely foreign to him. Instead of people and events revolving around his immense presence, he found that classes, meals and practices would go on with or without him.

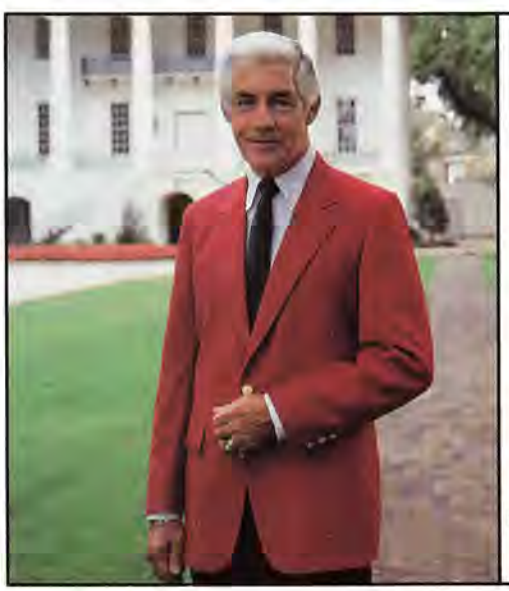
At just under 6-3 and right at 265 pounds, this 21-year-old will only get bigger and with an extensive weight training program to sculpt his massive frame you can see why the Alabama coaching staff is so eager to get him more playing time. Alabama offensive line coach Jimmy Fuller seems excited at the prospect of Clay playing full-time. "John has got exceptional technique," Fuller said. "His footwork is excellent for a man his size and he is the ideal weight to play guard. Furthermore, he is one of the best blockers on the team." With an endorsement like that it seemed as though he had finally made it and that the job was just about his. But when traces of blood were found in his urine, and an ankle injury forced him out of practice, his progress was ground to a halt. "He had improved each week and we had planned to start him until the internal problems surfaced, and once the tests revealed no danger, then the ankle went bad," Fuller said. A healthy John Clay would seem sure to be an integral part of the offensive line.

One might wonder how it feels to become one of the hunted as opposed to the hunter. Clay could tell you a lot about that. In high school, under Coach Fred Hubbs, he played both ways. "I don't mind being the hunted but that is a little misleading because when you play guard you are responsible for taking out the linebacker and that means I get to take a few extra steps in the blocking scheme," Clay said. At 265 pounds a few extra steps can generate a lot of power. "I try to dole out a little punishment myself," he added. So the switch to offense was yet one more change he handled well.

What was more challenging was having to adjust his weight to play offensive guard in college. In high school he could dominate at 245 pounds, but he needed to add to that to play in college.The problem was that he had already dropped 20 pounds to play linebacker his first year. "In high school I played both ways at 245 pounds but when I was recruited (by former Tide Coach Bill Curry) they wanted me to play linebacker so I dropped down to about 225 pounds. In practice, though, Derrick Oden and John Sullins got all of the repetitions and I was kind of the odd man out. So when our offensive line became depleted the coaching staff approached me with the idea of playing guard and since I had played in high school I moved right in and started working."

Having to put on an extra 40 pounds might seem stressful to some, but for Clay it was a routine switch. "I just started eating and coupled with my weight training I put it on in no time," he said. As soon as he moved in at guard his improvement began.

He took the change from defense to of-



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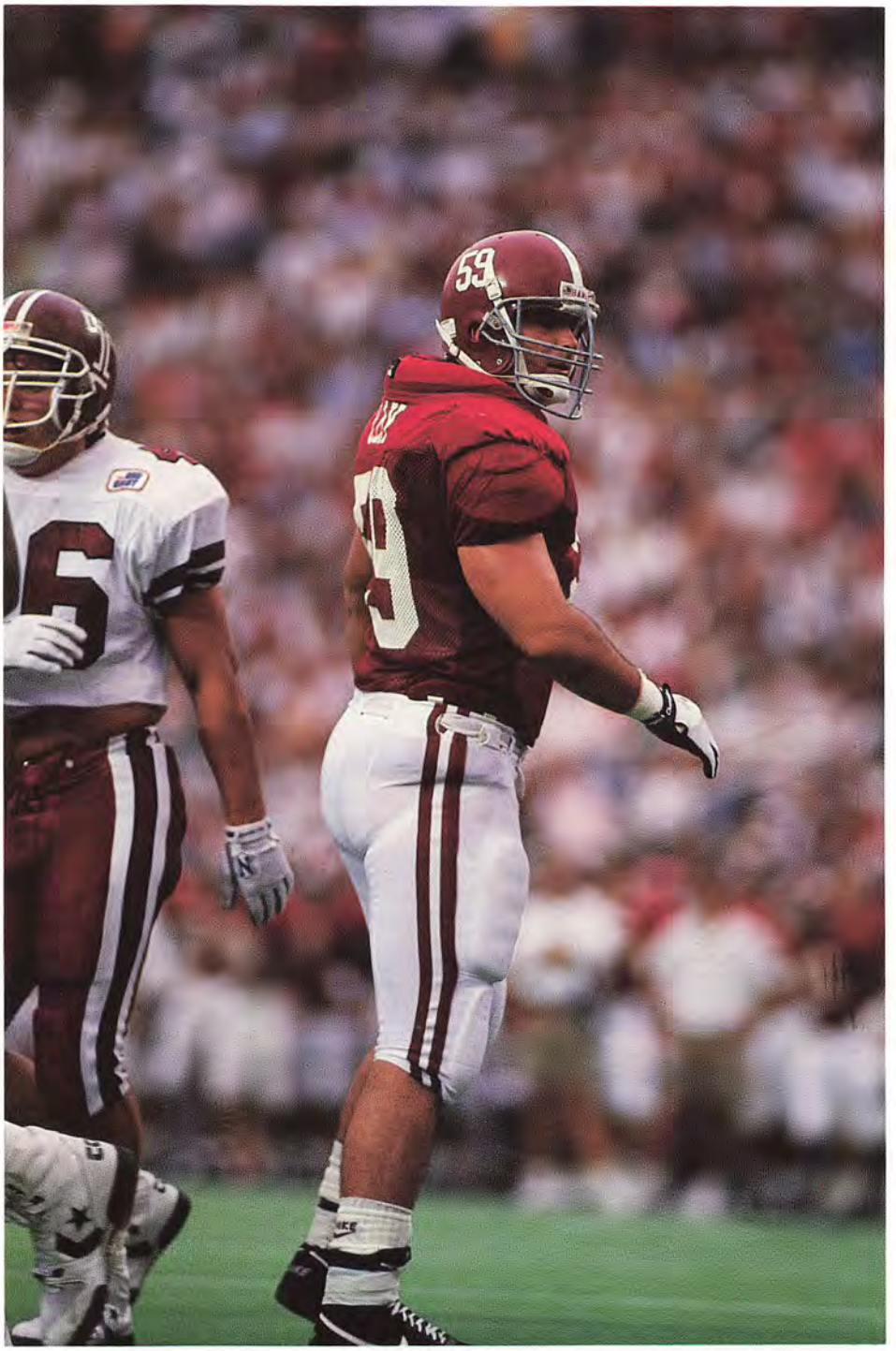
fense in stride, but this change was miniscule compared to the one he faced just a few years earlier when he was deciding on which school to attend. Even though he originally wanted to go to Georgia and later verbally committed to Auburn, he and his parents decided the best thing to do was to come to Alabama.

"I always had wanted to go to Georgia but when Coach (Vince) Dooley retired, I verbally committed to Auburn," Clay said. "Then my parents went with me on my official visits to both Auburn and Alabama and that was all we needed to sway our decision towards Alabama."

He would be the first to admit that his parents have been an important source of inspiration and support and gives them a lot of the credit for where he is today. "They never pressured me to do anything that didn't make me happy and I haven't had the extra burden of their financial well-being to hinder my decisions."

Unlike a large number of college football players, today and throughout history, Clay would not be out in the cold without his football scholarship. Clay's father is a prominent banker. Clay hopes his father's business sense has rubbed off on John, as he is in the business school at Alabama as a marketing major. Virtually every college athlete pays lip service to the philosophy that the most important reason for playing college football is to get a degree. In Clay's case, that seems to be true. He knows how few people move on to the next level and even if they do how short a professional football career might be.

Clay has made a lot of new friends since coming to Alabama. When he was a freshman he roomed with fellow offensive lineman William Barger and the two are very close. Now he rooms with walkon tight end Jason Abrams and they also get along very well. One of the things that Clay likes about Tuscaloosa is how easy it is to get along with his teammates and the hospitality of the natives."I went to visit Oxford and Athens after my senior year and they just don't compare with Tuscaloosa. The campus is so beautiful and I love the people." Another reason he's glad he came to Alabama is the Alabama coaching staff and the cohesiveness which they and the team have displayed. When he first arrived here the team seemed less like a family and more like a bunch of individuals going in opposite directions, he said. " I feel that in the last year this team has come a long way and that we are getting a lot of leadership from the seniors. That is indicative of the job the coaches have been doing because they have confidence in us and thus we have confidence in ourselves. When Coach Curry was here there were so many rules and regulations that the players were afraid to be themselves. Coach Stallings and his staff, on the other hand, have embraced the players individually and their doors are always open if we want to talk about anything. It's a lot more like a family unit and everybody is rallying together to make Alabama football what everybody has grown accustomed to."



Sophomore John Clay has had to make some changes in his brief Crimson Tide career. He came to Alabama in 1989 and was redshirted. In 1990 he was a backup linebacker and prominent member of the special teams. Last spring, after adding about 40 pounds to his 225-pound linebacker frame, he has moved to offensive right guard, where he is battling William Barger for the starting position.

Barry Fikes Photo

A lot of changes have taken place in John Clay's life. Thus far, he has shown that he views the challenge of change as opportunity.

Donnie Finkley:

Experience And Competition Help

by Kirk McNair

Injuries have played a big part in the career of this junior split end, both helping and hurting him

Donnie Finkley

Woody McCorvey

Injuries are a part of football, and in some ways they have been the biggest part of college football for Donnie Finkley. Since arriving at Alabama in 1988, Finkley, a 5-10, 173-pound junior wide receiver, has moved up and down on the depth charts in some relationship to various medical charts.

He has been injured several times. On the other hand, other players at his position have been injured, opening the door for him to move up. Now he is in the process of re-establishing himself as a starter after suffering an injury in the third game of the year.

Finkley has been number one both as a flanker and a split end during the past two years, but he has also been missing in action. For much of 1991 he has been battling back from injured ribs suffered in Bama's 10-0 victory over Georgia in the third game of the year. Just before the end of a scoreless first half, Finkley went high for a pass. With his hands up he was left exposed to two Georgia defensive backs, who sandwiched him. A helmet to the ribs rendered Finkley inoperable for a game and a half. Although he attempted to play in the Chattanooga and Tulane games, the injury continued to bother him. Further diagnosis revealed a cracked rib.

While Finkley is out, one of Alabama's most improved players, Kevin Lee, moved in front of him. As Finkley works to regain his starting job, he realizes that "injuries are a part of football. We've all got to be ready to step up when someone goes down."

Finkley's position coach, Woody McCorvey, was particularly disappointed for the wide receiver because he had done so well in the spring and in early fall workouts. "He was catching the ball better and he was getting open, which had been his primary weakness last year," McCorvey said.

Finkley said he came into the 1991 season "with a lot more confidence because of my game experience. You have to practice hard and practice helps a lot, but there is nothing like game experience. The pressure of a crowd, knowing that if you don't carry out your assignment in a game it could be the difference in winning or losing, things like that are different than practice."

He did one think differently prior to this season than he had the previous two. Prior to the 1989 and 1990 seasons, Finkley spent the summer in Tuscaloosa working out. Last summer he worked in Montgomery and had to work out on his own at Alabama State University.

Finkley thinks he and the other Tide receivers have one big advantage in practice: working against the Crimson Tide secondary. Although most practice is not first team against first team, there is enough work against the likes of George Teague and Mark McMillian and Antonio Langham and the rest of Coach Bill Oliver's defensive backfield to test the Bama wide receivers. "We don't face many secondaries with the talent of ours," Finkley said. "We feel if we can do well against our secondary, we can do well against anyone's."

Coming back from injury is nothing new for Finkley. After a redshirt year in 1988, Finkley began a string of injuries in the spring of 1989 when he suffered an ankle injury on the last day of spring training. Then that fall he suffered a broken thumb. Even though he saw action in 10 games that freshman season, it was not critical situation playing time as he was the number three split end. He had only one reception that year, a 10-yard catch in a 37-14 victory over Southern Miss.

Injuries continued to plague him the next spring. The day before the spring game in a workout in shorts, he put his hands up to make a routine catch of a Gary Hollingsworth pass. "The ball hit my hand funny and I thought I had jammed my fingers," Finkley remembered. "Then going back to the huddle I looked down and my fingers were just dangling." He had suffered severe lacerations. Even so, after a summer of rehabilitation and workout, he thought he was ready to go for the 1990 season.

However, he became part of a major reshuffling in the wide receiver corps. Before the opening game of 1990 he had to under go arthroscopic knee surgery after a freak injury on the first day of fall practice. Working in shorts, Finkley "came down the wrong way" on a routine pass reception and damaged cartilage in his knee. He missed the opening game of the year against Southern Miss. Frankly, the temporary loss of Finkley was only the first trickle in the dam bursting at the wide receiver position.

"In the Florida game, Craig (Sanderson) hurt his knee and so I went in at split end," Finkley said. "I started at split end against Georgia the next week. Then on the last play of the game, Prince Wimbley got hurt. So the next week they moved Lamonde (Russell) from tight end to split end and moved me to flanker."

Finkley (who is stuck with the nickname "Rat" as supplied by Wimbley) started the remainder of the season at flanker.

Having experience at both positions is only one of the reasons Finkley can play either wide spot. "In our offense there's not much difference in the two other than where you line up," he said. "The routes are the same. With the exception of the

A View Of The Competition

One of Donnie Finkley's potential competitors is one of the most talked-about freshmen in Alabama football history. Are football players awed by David Palmer?

"Oh, yeah!" Finkley said. "You can't deny David's talent and ability. He just makes so many things happen. Before he's through at The University of Alabama he's going to be one of the best who ever came through here. No player would deny that. We're lucky to have him at Alabama. I'd hate to be looking at him on the other side of the field with a different colored jersey on.

"He does some good things, makes some big plays. And he does that all on talent. Remember, he's a true freshman. It takes at least a year to learn the system, learn to recognize different defenses, and those important things. Once he has that experience he is going to *really* be doing some good things. You would think he couldn't do any more, but just wait. He'll be doing a lot more."

–Kirk McNair

Donnie Finkley is one of a handful of wide receivers seeing plenty of playing time for the Crimson Tide this year. A year ago Bama was plagued with numerous losses in a receiving corps that had much less depth. Finkley, who is now a split end, finished the 1990 season as Alabama's number one flanker.

Barry Fikes Photo

freshmen, all the wide receivers know the assignments for both positions." A flanker is technically a back and must line up behind the line of scrimmage, while a split end is one of seven linemen who must be on the line of scrimmage.

Looking back, Finkley thinks he was not ready for a starting assignment. "It was a surprise to me (to inherit the number one position)," he said. "I don't know if I was really ready, but I had to try my best." His best was good enough for nine receptions for 124 yards of offense. He also tried the flanker-around a couple of times for 20 yards.

Finkley is pleased with the direction the Alabama offense has taken this year. While almost everyone agrees that offensive production has been helped by a.) a light schedule and b.) the team staying relatively healthy, Finkley thinks an early decision by the coaching staff has also helped. "We were trying to run the option and do a lot of other things when the season began," he said. "As we've gone along we've cut down on the offense. We have fewer things to do, which is a real help to inexperienced players because with fewer things to do we get more work on them and can execute better."

The wide receiver also thinks that he has improved "just because I've had more experience. And I also think that everyone on this team has worked as hard as he can to improve."

That has increased competition. "I want to be the best player I can be, but so does everyone else on this team," Finkley said. "Kevin (Lee) has really improved. He just didn't have confidence last year, but he's built it up playing this year. Curt Brown (his other primary competition at split end) has come along real well. We encourage each other. We need as many players as possible playing well."

Finkley said he was not much of a football fan growing. But his father and uncle were Alabama fans, "so I saw a lot of Alabama football. I starting following college football during my high school career and following Alabama when Mike Shula was the quarterback."

Finkley, who runs a 4.4 40-yard dash, was strictly a wide receiver for Coach Joe Dean at Fairhope High School. "We had a big school with a lot of talent, so no one played both ways," he said. "Maybe once or twice late in the game I'd go in as an extra safety, and once when I was back to receive a punt it was a fake and I had to play defense, but I've always liked the offensive side of the ball." And he played it pretty well, earning all-state honors. In his junior and senior seasons he caught 87 passes for 1,720 yards and 14 touchdowns.

He was recruited strongest by Alabama, Ole Miss and Tennessee following his prep career. Although he now downplays the decision-making process, Finkley actually committed to Ole Miss before changing his mind and signing with the Tide.

Finkley hopes that his greatest moment as an Alabama football player has not yet occurred, but he knows what it is to this point. "I was on the field for the last play of the game against Auburn last year," he said. "That was a great moment seeing our fans. It was a pretty good feeling."

A lot better than, say, a cracked rib.

John Copeland:

Good Fall Makes A Difference

by Donald F. Staffo

Junior college transfer has been an impact player on Bama's defensive front

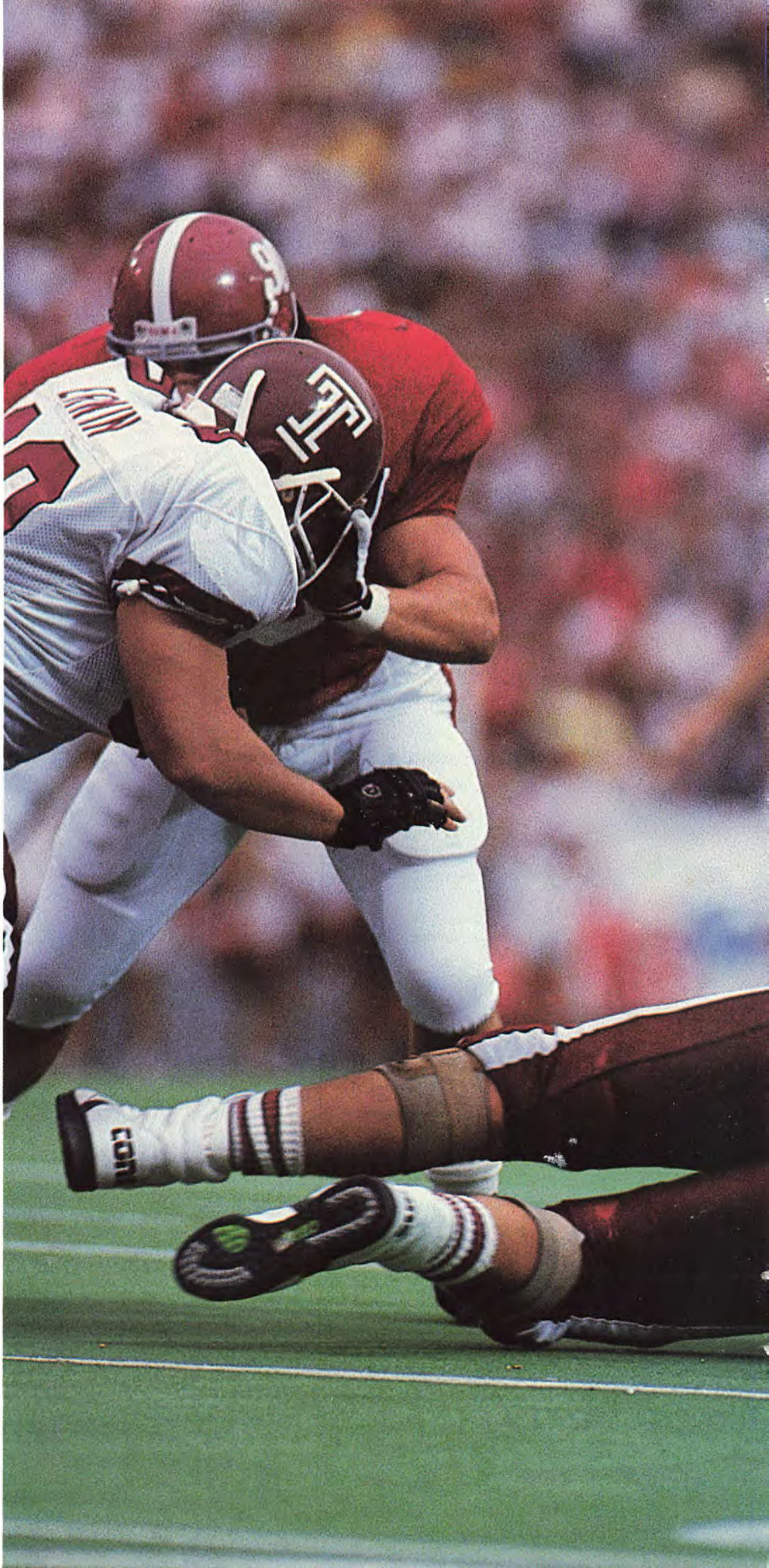
He is quiet and soft-spoken, but don't be fooled. John Copeland doesn't scare easily, and he's not impressed by the reputations of others. On the football field if you've got the ball and you're an opposing player, he is determined to stick you. Although it's not evident, inside his belly a fire burns. And that helps to explain his rise to a starting position as Alabama's defensive left end.

Copeland transferred to Alabama in January from Hinds Junior College in Raymond, Mississippi, where he was a Junior College All-America. He participated in spring practice with the Tide, but injured his ankle the second day in pads. Having to miss much of the contact work at a contact time was an obvious hindrance to him trying to make an impression on Bama coaches.

"I'm really not sure how John was able to earn a starting position so quickly," admitted defensive line Coach Mike Dubose. "He was hurt and didn't have a real good spring.

"But he stayed up here in the summer and worked real hard in the weight room and got in real good shape. When we began fall practice he was in good shape so he could concentrate on technique. He stayed healthy and got more repetitions than some of the others. He only had to be concerned about playing. He got better each day of fall practice.

"It's important to him that he did play, and play well. Because of that he worked



Although Bama junior defensive end John Copeland feels a need to get bigger and stronger, he has been a good addition to the Crimson Tide defense this year. After an All-America junior college career, he had a mediocre spring training with Bama primarily because of injuries, but came back in the fall ready to play. He took over the first string spot before the first game, and he has held on to it.
Barry Fikes Photo

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extremely hard, and it paid off."

Dubose admitted surprise at Copeland's sudden status as a starter. "I'm a little surprised," he said. "I originally thought John's strength would be as a pass rusher. It is, but not to the degree that I thought it would be. I thought he might be a situational player for us. But he's now a three downs player, as opposed to a third down player.

"He's played a lot bigger than he is (6-4, 254). He's much better against the run than I anticipated him being at this stage. He plays well at the point of attack, but he still has the ability to get on the edge of the offensive blocker to rush the passer."

Copeland, coming virtually out of nowhere after the disappointing spring, earned the starting position during the third week of fall practice, and has held it ever since. Even he is surprised by his vault past returning players, particularly Jeremy Nunley, to ascend to the top of the Tide depth chart.

"I'm very surprised. I didn't expect this, especially after the kind of spring I had," he said. "I had a lot of trouble getting the system down and learning what Coach Dubose expected out of me. Then I hurt my ankle and missed out on the work in pads, and that set me back.

"But I just sat down and had a little talk with myself," he explained. "I knew I was better than I showed in spring practice. So I made up my mind to go out and show everybody else what I knew I could do."

Still, Copeland has startled himself by the quick results. Last year at this time he was knocking junior college kids around, but that's hardly an indication that he could or would be holding his own with Division I players. After five games Copeland says he doesn't see that much difference between the competition he faced last year at Hinds Junior College, and what he sees this year at Alabama.

"The main difference between this year and last year is the crowd," Copeland said. "The competition isn't that much tougher. I'm not that impressed." (Perhaps because players at places like Temple, Vanderbilt, Tennessee-Chattanooga, and Tulane are less than intimidating.)

"I did see a big difference in competition when we played Florida and Georgia though. Those guys know what they're doing. There were great athletes on both teams.

"Some of the players I've played against here are tougher, but overall it's about the same."

Prior to coming to the Capstone, Copeland didn't really know what to expect. And he certainly didn't expect to make an immediate impact, especially at a tradition-rich school like Alabama.

"I thought I'd be second or third team this year and just play a little bit," he said.

Nunley, a 6-5, 255-pound sophomore who earned *Football News* second team Freshman All-America and first-team All-Southeastern Conference freshman honors in 1990, led the race for the defensive end job in spring practice, but injuries and

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John Copeland (94) was expected to be a good pass rusher for Bama this year, but he has also been very effective against the run.
Barry Fikes Photo

slightly subpar performances in fall scrimmages enabled Copeland to move up the ladder.

"Nunley was a little bit out in front at first, but he got nicked up a little bit and then he didn't play as well as he's capable in a couple of the early scrimmages," Dubose said. "But I consider John and Jeremy both starters. We try to find several defensive linemen to play three positions, and then rotate them in and out in crucial parts of the game. We consider all four starters.

"In other situations (when the game is not on the line) we try to play our younger players."

Copeland isn't sure how he pulled ahead in the neck-and-neck competition with Nunley. "I don't know how I did," he said, "except that I kept going harder and harder every day in practice. I just tried to do my best on every play.

"At first I thought Coach Dubose wasn't watching me, but then one day he told me he was watching me and that he had seen that I had made a little progress. That just made me push myself a little harder."

Copeland is the starter, but that doesn't mean his spot is cast in cement, or that he's where Dubose wants him to be.

"Although I'm pleased with his performance so far, I hope John understands that he's not close to his potential. He needs a lot of work in all areas. He's not close to utilizing all his capabilities as a pass rusher and in his play against the run," said Dubose. "He's a real good football player now, but he can be more than a real good football player if he's willing to pay the price. He still needs to do a lot of little things to get where we want him to be, and where he wants to be. He's capable of being an outstanding football player."

Copeland realizes what Dubose means by little things. "My first step needs to be faster," he said. "Because my base is so wide I've been having a problem with my lead step to the play-side, whether it's left or right. But when I narrow my base I feel uncomfortable. I feel like I can't move."

To advance to the next level–from a very good player to an outstanding player–Copeland must learn to move quicker off the snap, among other things.

"Most of the guys I play against are going to be bigger and stronger than I am, so I've got to depend on my quickness," Copeland said. He runs a 4.8-second 40-yard dash, bench presses 315 pounds, and squats 465 pounds. "My bench press (total) is hurting, especially for a guy my size and someone playing my position. My squat is probably average, so that can be improved, too. My pass rush was not so good at the beginning of the season, but I'm getting better."

Copeland is not afraid to work, the summer program he put himself through which jump-started his career at the Capstone being proof of that. "My main goal is for us to win the SEC," he said. "That's what I practice for every day. I've come so close all my life to winning the big game, but I've never won it. That's why I came here–to win it."

Copeland's Hinds Junior College team contended for the Mississippi Junior College championship both years that he played, losing in the semifinals the first year and in the finals the second, and missing out on a bowl game each season.

Regardless, he said, going the junior college route "was the best decision I ever made in my life. It gave me a chance to mature more, and get stronger, and faster, and more physically prepared."

Dubose agrees. "John came out of a very fine junior college program," the coach said. "This is my first experience coaching a junior college player, so I was a little hesitant and reluctant at first. But John is much farther along than I thought he would be at this point. Coming out of a junior college program one of the first things he had to do was learn the system. But he's picked up the system quite well.

"It's unusual because he's new himself, but if we have a leader on the defensive line, it would be John. He has tried to take the leadership role as far as the defensive line is concerned. He leads first by his actions, and then if he has to say something, he'll say it."

More importantly, junior college enabled Copeland to get his academic situation in order. Originally signed by Alabama after a first team all-state career at Valley High School where he played defensive end and middle linebacker, topped off by being named the Most Valuable Player in the Alabama-Mississippi all-star game, Copeland was academically ineligible to play for the Crimson Tide. Recruited by Auburn, Ole Miss, and Mississippi State, in addition to the Tide, he opted for Hinds, not only to become a better football player, but to become a better student.

Successful in both endeavors, Florida State, Tennessee, and Houston joined in the chase for Copeland. The junior from Lanett, Alabama selected the Tide because "I just always wanted to come here. I always wanted to be a part of the tradition here."

And now that he's here–and playing–he says: "It's great. It's been worth the wait. And I'm not willing to give up my position."

Swimming & Diving Outlook:

Bama Hopes To Tap Potential

by Becky Hopf

Tide has a scientific approach to developing championship performers

Once upon a time a swimming race was a casual pleasure. Two stood shoulder to shoulder at the side of a pool or the shore of a lake. Someone yelled, "Go!" A plunge into the water and race, one against another, one winner.

Today swimming is a science. The pleasure of the victory still exists, but the race is now against the clock as much as against the opponent.

The scientific approach blows the romance of athlete against athlete right out of the water. But who needs nostalgia when swimmers are producing amazing times, shattering records that once seemed insurmountable? And it is no longer necessary to be the most swift to be a winner. A "personal best" time is as good as (or better than) victory in many instances.

Among those avid believers in the scientific approach to swimming is second year University of Alabama men's and women's swimming coach Jonty Skinner, a record-shatterer himself. Apparently the method works. Alabama male swimmers collected five individual Southeastern Conference titles and brought home five All-America honors at nationals last year. The team finished 11th in the NCAA, and at the NCAA Championships, easily the most challenging meet of the season, six school records were broken. On Alabama's women's team, Alabama brought home its first SEC individual title since 1987. The women's team finished 21st in the nation, producing one first team All-America and six honorable mention All-America winners.

Jonty Skinner

Just how does one approach swimming scientifically? For Skinner, it's academic. He uses computer and videotape to analyze strokes. It's a personal approach because he evaluates and works with each swimmer individually instead of grouping types of swimmers, such as sprinters or distance swimmers or butterfly specialists.

"The use of computers is great for so many aspects of swimming, from recording workout times to breaking down the different aspects of a swimmer's race so that he can see exactly how and where he can improve the race," Skinner said. "If you can show an athlete solid proof that his goal is within his grasp and give him concrete ways to achieve that goal, and be able to say, 'This is what you have to do and this is how you are going to do it,' then the athlete stands on the (starting) block excited about success instead of concerned about failure."

Skinner's staff, which includes Vance Rose, an assistant for the past 12 years, and fifth-year diving mentor Pat Greenwell, returns for another season together. Among the swimmers they will be systematically coaching this year are five returning All-Americas on both the men's

Alabama's 1991-92 swimming and diving teams will feature Jim Pestrichelli, a distance freestyler for the men, and Jennifer Mahaney, an All-America diver.
Barry Fikes Photo

and women's teams.

The biggest dent to the men's squad comes in loss, by graduation, of nine-time All-America and world-class freestyler Jon Olsen and six-time All-America diver Mark Rourke.

"There is a lot of untapped talent on this team," Skinner said. "With a team as young as ours, that's going to be the case. This year we're going to concentrate on developing that talent and moving ourselves into a position where we can make a run at the Southeastern Conference title in the next couple of years. This year we are looking to build team unity, team pride and the attitude that is necessary for Alabama to succeed as a team.

"I think that we can take a step forward from where we were last season even with the losses of Jon and Mark. We won't have the front line, guaranteed point talent that we enjoyed with those two on our roster, but our depth is going to be much better than it was last season."

Ready to emerge as Olsen's successor is sprint freestyler Keith Martin, a senior who was on three of Alabama's scoring relay teams at nationals in 1991 and who was a finalist in the 50 freestyle at the SEC championships. His group is joined by Stavros Michaelides, an honorable mention All-America on the 200 and 400 freestyle relay teams last year, Travis Myers, a Tuscaloosa native who grew up competing at the University Aquatics Center and who opened a promising Alabama career by producing one of the school's faster times in the 50 freestyle, and butterfly specialist Stefan Parlklo. Newcomers to that group include USS Junior National Champion David Strassburg, transfer honorable mention All-America (from Ohio State), Dustin McDaniels, and Brian Wrighton, a Louisiana high school state champion. New to the distance freestyle events are Craig Devitt, a Canadian junior national team member who has international experience, Jim Pestrichelli, a high school All-America, and J.J. Poland, who has had as high as a third place finish at junior nationals in the 1650 freestyle.

Martin and Jamey Myers, both All-Americas, will likely lead Alabama in the backstroke. They will be joined by Peter Doig and McDaniels. In the butterfly events, Parlklo, an SEC finalist, Tsukasa Kawabuchi, Alex Hermeto and Michaelides will compete. The breaststroke events are led by Dan Lacina, an All-America, Travis Myers and Hermeto.

Greenwell's divers will counter Rourke's loss with Darren Brudos and Ken Vincens, both SEC finalists on the platform. Newcomers to the diving squad are Mike Tamberino, a two-time high school All-America, and Rick Richmond, a Florida high school state champion.

"As I said at the beginning of last season, winning dual meets is not a measure of success for this team. Our goal and focus is going to be on the SEC Championships and the NCAA Championships. We'll use the dual meets as tools to build toward those ends. On a more individual level, this is an Olympic year, and we have swimmers on this squad who have shots–admittedly long shots–at making it to the Games. We will help them as much as we can toward that goal."

Two was the magic number when it comes to key losses for the Alabama women as well. SEC Champion breaststroker Ragga Runolfsdottir and butterfly school record holder Dorie Portela both graduated after last season.

In the breaststroke events, Alabama will lean to senior Jana Korsch, an SEC scorer who once ranked first in the nation in the 50 breaststroke, and Huntsville freshman Katherine Rhodes, a two-time high school All-America.

Jo Dee Lake, an honorable mention All-America and an SEC finalist, and Birmingham's Georgia Sewell, a third-place SEC finisher, will smooth the wake left by the loss of Portela in the butterfly events. Susan Bartholomew returns after a redshirt season in 1991. Bartholomew is a former Junior National Champion.

Lake will also help lead the freestyle events, particularly the sprint freestyle. Both she and senior Michelle Harris were honorable mention All-Americas last season. They will be joined in the sprint events by new faces Kathleen Caldwell and Tammy Kneer, a four-time high school All-America. New talents will fill the distance events. Junior National Champion Stacy Gillies and high school All-America Alison Gallagher are among those. Anchoring that event is senior Mallory Slaughter, a Huntsville native and an SEC scorer.

One of Alabama's stronger events should be the backstroke where Alabama school record holder and honorable mention All-America Rita Garay and All-America Kym Hucal compete.

In diving, Alabama returns All-America Jennifer Mahaney who placed third in the NCAA on the platform and medaled on both the three meter and the platform boards at the 1991 SEC Championships. Two-time Swedish national champion Sofie Rylander also returns. Rylander placed second in the SEC on the platform. Diving team newcomers include Jill Tappen and Tracy Salzano. Tappen is a two-time New Jersey state champion and, after winning the three-meter board in 1989, was the runner-up on both the one and three meter boards at the 1991 YMCA National Championships.

Both the Tide men's and women's teams usually compete together at meets. And among the seven scheduled home meets are the SEC Championships, which will be held February 5-8, and the Region III Championships, which will be held February 13-16.

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Davis Heads Skill Players

by Tommy Deas

A look at the top state high school football backs, wide receivers and kickers

Coaching in the Birmingham area for nearly three decades has afforded Gerald Gann an up-close look at some of the best running backs ever to come through the state of Alabama.

Until recently, the veteran coach at Homewood High School had grown used to seeing the greats wearing uniforms which marked them as opponents. Now Gann can see a back in that mold donning a Patriot jersey.

Robert Davis, a 5-11, 180-pounder with 4.4 speed in the 40-yard dash (he has run a 4.49 in full pads), reminds Gann of the best backs he has ever coached against.

"I think he's as good as any running back in the country in high school football," Gann said. "I've been in it 27 years, and he's the best one I've had. He's right there with the Tony Nathans, Major Ogilvies and Johnny Mussos. I didn't have any of them, but teams I was associated with played all of them.

"Everybody–the Nebraskas and Oklahomas and UCLAs and Michigans, the SEC people, Florida State–just about anybody that runs the football is interested in him."

Currently, Davis' focus is on his senior season. Homewood finished runner-up in the state in Class 5A last season, and he has set his goals on going out with a state championship.

Recruiters can wait.

"Sometimes at home I can't do my work because of the college coaches calling," he said. "It hasn't got real bad yet. I just like to go away sometimes and talk and get away from it.

"I want to play football. I love it. I'll play the game as long as it's around.

"I'm happy I'm in this position. I've come a long way. I feel like if I don't take advantage of this, there must be something wrong with me."

To that end, Davis has buckled down on his studies. A solid 'B' student, he made a 16 the first time he took the ACT college entrance exam. Players must make at least a 17 to be eligible as freshmen.

Robert Davis

Davis has been spending much of his off-the-field time working to improve that score. He stays often at the home of the parents of a graduated Homewood friend whose mother is a teacher, and that family has helped him prepare to retake the test. He was scheduled to take it a second time in late October.

"They're really trying to help me out," Davis said. "They tell me do what you have to do, we're going to help you get ready for college."

Davis' high school friend is now a student at Auburn. He has taken unofficial visits to Auburn and Alabama, and says out-of-state schools interested in luring him with a scholarship will have to make up ground with the local schools.

"I mainly go down (to Alabama and Auburn) to see the campus when nothing is going on to see what it's really like," Davis said. "Mainly it will be those two places. Definitely I will take visits to both of them. I don't know a lot about other schools.

"Right now I'm getting to know a lot of people that know a lot about recruiting and how college life is. One place is quiet and one place is not so quiet."

In two-and-a-half seasons of high school play, Davis has posted 61 touchdowns. He surpassed the 1,000-yard rushing mark in the fifth game of his senior season and carried an average of better than 10 yards per rush through his first six games.

Going into his senior year, Davis had run for more than 4,000 yards, giving him a realistic shot at 6,000 in his three-year career.

"He gained 1,800 yards as a sophomore," Gann said, "so he wasn't any big surprise last year."

Gann made the move to an I-formation rushing attack largely to suit Davis when he arrived on the varsity squad as a 10th-grader. Davis said the I best suits his talents.

"I guess when I started getting noticed was my sophomore year when I was on the varsity and when we went back to the I," he said. "I'd say I'm definitely an I back.

"I can play fullback, too. I can catch the ball and run with it. It's getting to where I can do it a lot this year.

"It all depends on how the blockers block. If I get sent outside, it's because they're making the blocks outside, and when I run inside it's because they're making the blocks inside."

In addition to his play at running back, Davis has returned kicks and punts with success, and he is Homewood's safety in prevent defense situations.

Gann extends his praise of Davis beyond the football field.

"He's a fine young man with a good personality," the coach said. "He works hard in the weight room. He's a real team player."

While Davis may have played his way into the top spot in the heart of football recruiters scouring the state for talent, he isn't the only skill position prospect in the state.

What follows is a list of some of Alabama's top backs, receivers, returners, kickers and the like. Inclusion on this list does not imply that any of the athletes intend to sign with The University of Alabama, or that the Crimson Tide is actively recruiting the player. The list of the skill players getting the most attention is compiled with the help of recruiting publications, recommendations from coaches and local newspapers. These players are listed alphabetically.

Alexander City Benjamin Russell's **Alan Barnett** has impressed scouts with his ability as an option quarterback for Coach Steve Savarese. He passed for 967 yards as a junior, and was a threat on the ground as well. Barnett

stands 6-3 and weighs 200 pounds, and has 4.8 speed in the 40 as well as academic qualifications. Both of Barnett's parents attended Auburn, but his future may be at an option school.

Anniston High School wide receiver **Larry Bowie** may not have made as big a splash as some other wideout prospects, but he is versatile enough to play running back or defensive back in college. Bowie has speed at 6-1, 175 pounds, and could yet grow into a major college receiver or rusher. Bowie was listed as one of the state's top 30 prospects by *The Birmingham Post-Herald*, and made the Sweet 16 of *The Tuscaloosa News*. Bowie ran for 855 yards and caught 30 passes as a junior.

Since rushing for 1,600 yards as a sophomore and 1,500 more as a junior, Chelsea running back **Brian Boyington** has gathered a lot of attention. At 5-11, 185 pounds, speed and quickness are his game. An all-state selection at tailback for Coach Lee Hibbs, he ran for 18 touchdowns as a junior, including a 295-yard, four-touchdown performance against Montevallo. In his junior year, Boyington finished third in Metro Birmingham in rushing, second in kickoff returns, third in punt returns and third in points scored. He entered his senior year with more than 2,500 career rushing yards. Alabama, Ole Miss, Florida State, Vanderbilt and Army are among the schools interested in the three-year starter, who also plays defensive back and linebacker on defense.

Rated as the top man-to-man defender in the state by *The Tuscaloosa News*, **Tracy Cantlope** of Dothan Northview may be the number one sleeper in the state as well. The 6-0, 180-pound defensive back may favor Florida State over in-state schools which covet his talent. FSU standout Lawrence Dawsey also played at Northview.

Kwalee Cooper of Florence Bradshaw rushed for 900 yards as a junior, and displayed both elusiveness and good hands. He stands 5-10 and weighs just 160 pounds, making size the biggest strike against him. Cooper, who has 4.5 speed, will have to bank on his quickness in college.

Cherokee County wide receiver **Derrick Dupree** has major college size at 6-4, 190 pounds, and speed at 4.6 in the 40. Also a standout in basketball and track, he plays safety on defense and has passed his college entrance exam. One thing coches like is that he has the hands and size to grow into a tight end.

Chris Fears, a 6-2, 210-pound receiver/defensive back at Smiths Station, has also played some quarterback and stands out in basketball and baseball, but it is his size and pass-catching ability that may land him in a college uniform. He used his reported 4.5 speed to snare 28 passes for more than 500 yards as a junior. Alabama, Auburn, Florida State, LSU and Tennessee have shown interest in Coach Bill Ragal's pupil, but he had not yet qualified academically at press time. Fears can bench press 300 pounds and was an honorable mention all-state selection as a junior.

Roanoke Handley's **Stacy Garrett** may be a running back who has to have a superior senior season to attract attention due to depth in this state's class at the position. The 5-10, 170-pound slasher and cutter runs hard and has 4.6 speed in the 40.

In the Notre Dame box offense of Coach Ed Reed at Central-Tuscaloosa, **Lonzell Gowdy** plays tailback. That requires running and passing skills, but the 6-2, 197-pounder may find himself playing defensive back or wide receiver in college. Gowdy both ran and passed for more than 1,000 yards as a prep junior, and has received recruiting attention from Alabama, LSU, Auburn, Florida State and Southern Miss. He has run a 4.5 in the 40 and is also a guard on the school's state championship basketball team.

While talent in the state is abundant this year, there are no nationally-rated blue chip quarterbacks. The best in the state might be Vestavia's **Paul Head**, who is in his third year starting for

Watts Happy He Has Decided

Tim Watts may have faults, but procrastination isn't one of them. While one old proverb holds that good things come to those who wait, another advises to never put off until tomorrow something which can be done today. Watts, a senior fullback at Selma Southside High School, obviously adheres to the latter.

Tim Watts

The 6-2, 235-pounder, who has been clocked at 4.75 seconds in the 40-yard dash, made a verbal commitment to play football at the University of Alabama next year when the current season was barely underway.

"It was just easier," he explained of his early decision. "There was too much stress from other colleges. I'd get letters and calls at night when I was trying to sleep. It allows me to concentrate more on football and school work. I grew up an Alabama fan ever since I was a little boy. I watched them on TV."

Watts took unofficial recruiting visits to Alabama and Auburn, and saw interest from Florida, LSU, Mississippi State, Oklahoma and UCLA, among others. A trip to watch an Alabama practice made an impression.

"I think it was early this year or last year we went up and watched them practice," he said. "I looked at the fullbacks and I thought they didn't have much size, but they all had good technique, blocked well and played hard. I thought I fit in."

The fullback position will be a priority for the Crimson Tide after this season, when senior Kevin Turner finishes his eligibility and current junior Martin Houston enters his final season of play.

Watts, who has bench pressed 300 pounds and squatted 650, had run for 3,100 yards going into his senior season. Through six games this year, the three-year starter had amassed 720 rushing yards and 330 more in pass receptions, with eight total touchdowns. He also contributed at inside linebacker, with more than 75 stops through six contests.

"He's a tremendous person and he has very good work habits," said Southside Coach Arlton Hudson. "It never even crossed my mind (to move him out of the backfield), to tell the truth. He's too fast and we needed a fullback.

"He's a tremendous prospect. I think he'll be an All-America before he's through at Alabama. With Turner and Houston both fixing to be gone, I know he'll fit into their scheme real well. As hard-nosed as Coach (Gene) Stallings is, I know he likes to have a big, strong fullback."

And Watts is happy to have the opportunity to one day wear the crimson and white. "It was the happiest day of my life," he said of the day he announced his college intentions. "It's a big dream come true."

–Tommy Deas

Alan Barnett

Larry Bowie

Tracy Cantlope

Lonzell Gowdy

Paul Head

Coach Buddy Anderson. At 6-2 and 193 pounds, Head has 4.8 speed in the 40 and a strong left arm. An honor student who has easily met academic standards, Head passed for more than 1,500 yards as a junior, throwing 10 touchdown passes with just two interceptions on 99 of 166 passing. The first half of his senior season is on pace to match those totals. Head has also started two years in basketball and baseball, and could be a sleeper. Atlantic Coast Conference schools, including Clemson and Duke, join Alabama, Florida, UCLA and Notre Dame as schools which are in contact with Head.

Opp High School's **Aaron Hightower**, a 6-3, 200-pound prospect at quarterback, completed a whopping 70 percent of his passes as a junior and is considered an above-par passer. A standout also in basketball and baseball who has run a 4.5 in the 40, Hightower is considered something of a sleeper among the state's signal-callers. An Auburn fan, Hightower has started for two years for Coach Paul Wooley and has already qualified academically for college. His nickname is "A-Bone."

Davidson High in Mobile has produced an outstanding running back in **James Johnson**, who stands 6-1 and weighs 205. Johnson was one of the bright spots for Coach Tate Marsh on last year's ground-oriented 2-7 squad.

Alabama, Auburn, Penn State, Ole Miss and Michigan have been in contact with Midfield's **Johnny Lomoro.** The 5-8, 156-pounder was 7 of 8 on field goals and booted 36 of his 42 kickoffs into the end zone as a junior. He has two long kicks of 48 yards, and has already passed academic qualifications. Lomoro also punts for Coach Bill Crenshaw.

Wide receiver **Toderick Malone** of Etowah County in Attala nabbed 45 catches for more than 1,000 yards as a junior, but hasn't had the luxury of last year's quarterback, Patrick Nix, tossing the ball his way since Nix left for Auburn. Etowah County Coach Wyman Townsel reports that recruiting interest hasn't slowed even though the 5-11, 165-pounder hasn't put up numbers as spectacular as those of a year ago. With 4.5 speed, he can count on schools continuing to show interest. Malone was rated as one of the state's top 12 prospects by *The Birmingham News*, and also made the Sweet 16 ratings of *The Tuscaloosa News* and the top 10 list of *The Birmingham Post-Herald.*

What would a list of state prospects be without one from tiny football factory Hazlewood High, which has produced a number of standout skill performers. This year's is **Renardo McCoy**, a 6-1, 185-pound natural athlete who excells in both the offensive and defensive backfields. His future probably lies on defense.

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the pressure of being tabbed as "the next Bo Jackson" or "a Bobby Humphrey clone." Imagine how Pelham kicker **Michael Proctor** feels every time he is called the best placekicker to come out of the state since record-setting Phillip Doyle. Alabama, Auburn, Florida, Florida State and Southern Miss are among the schools pursuing his foot, and his junior statistics should tell why. Proctor, 5-11, 170, made 11 field goals, with five of them for 50 yards or more with a long of 53 for Pelham Coach Ronnie Gilliland. Then this year he set an Alabama high school record with a 60-yard field goal against Mountain Brook. Gilliland said Proctor had hit from 60 yards in practice. At press time, Proctor's career streak of never having missed an extra point was still going, and he was also punting at a 40-yard average. Proctor has made virtually every listing of top prospects in the state, and was an all-state and all-metro selection. He has also qualified academically for college participation.

Auburn High School's **Adrian Reese** has size (6-2, 185) and power to go with 4.6 speed in the 40. He rambled for almost 1,300 yards as a junior and was named his school's football MVP while gaining honorable mention all-state honors. Auburn, Alabama, LSU, Tennessee and Florida have all shown an interest in Reese, who plays for Coach Wayne Proffitt. Reese has already qualified academically. He is also a basketball player and can bench press 300 pounds.

Running back **Darrell Sanders** of Huntsville Lee is the Rocket City's top rushing prospect. At 6-0, 185, he has size and speed, at 4.6 in the 40. Sanders ran for almost 1,000 yards as a junior, and could be a sleeper.

Brad Sharit, a power runner from Hewitt-Trussville, stands 6-1 and weighs 220 pounds. Some scouts think he could grow into a linebacker, though his 4.6 speed might be better put to use on offense. Sharit rushed for nearly 1,000 yards in his first year of starting as a junior, and has already qualified academically. Alabama, Auburn, Ole Miss, Georgia Tech and LSU are all showing interest, and he has had cousins play at both Auburn and Georgia. Sharit was an honorable mention All-Metro selection in Birmingham for Coach Jack Wood.

Trey Sippial of Montgomery Academy has continued to see his stock rise as his senior season has rolled along. A running back who has already qualified academically, Sippial has drawn attention from Alabama, Auburn, Penn State, Georgia Tech and Vanderbilt, among others. At 6-1 and 195 pounds, Sippial boasts 4.6 speed and nearly 2,000 career yards by the mid-point of his senior season. He also turns heads as a kick returner and cornerback. He was rated as one of the state's best by *The Birmingham News* and *The Tuscaloosa News*.

Roy Stabler, a defensive back from Jackson High School, is considered by many as the top pass defender in the state. At 6-3, 200 pounds, he may end up as a safety, where his 4.49 speed and superior quickness can complement his size. Stabler missed the first half of the season after going down with a hairline fracture in his right arm in the Aggies' season opener, but Coach Danny Hayes says interest hasn't dropped for the prospect rated No. 9 in the state by *The Birmingham News*. Stabler, who has been contacted by Florida State, Auburn and Vanderbilt, plays wide receiver on offense and is also a basketball player.

Derrick Staley of Andalusia is yet another running back making a bid for a major college scholarship this year in a bumper crop of runners. At 6-1, 180 pounds, he may find more opportunities on defense.

Running back **Maurice Stringer** of Opelika has shown bursting speed and above-average hands for Coach Doug Barfield, the former Auburn University head coach. At 5-10, 178, Stringer's top asset is 4.35 speed in the 40-yard dash, which he used to make all-state as a returner. Stringer ran for 1,200 yards and won almost every all-area award he was eligible for as a junior. He has also lettered in basketball, baseball and track, and can bench press 310 pounds.

If bloodlines have anything to say about it, **Patrick Sullivan** of Mountain Brook High will have plenty of recruiters calling. The son of the former Auburn University Heisman Trophy winner, Sullivan has good size (6-4, 190), speed (4.8) and mechanics. His football savvy and good grades won't hurt his chances of luring a scholarship offer, nor will references from his father, Pat Sullivan, Auburn's quarterback coach.

Defensive back **Ashley Thomas** of Vincent is known as a hard hitter who runs well. Some scouts tout him as a real sleeper at 6-1, 185 pounds with 4.6 speed. He also plays the run well, and is a quarterback on offense. Thomas' college future will almost definitely be in the defensive backfield.

While some rate **Eric Tucker** of Valley in Fairfax as one of the better running backs in the state, his future probably lies on the defensive side of the ball as a cornerback. While he lacks size at 5-10, 160, Tucker runs the 40-yard dash in 4.5 seconds and plays with toughness.

Red Bay's **Chris Westbrook** rates right now as one of the best running back prospects in the state, but at 6-2 and 215 pounds he may yet find himself at linebacker or fullback. Westbrook's running style is characterized by power and his ability to break tackles and burst through the hole. Florida State may have the edge if the Seminoles can find a place for him.

Frankie Wheeler of B.B. Comer in Sylacauga is the cousin of one of Alabama's top recruits last year, Damiean

Brad Sharit

Trey Sippial

Roy Stabler

Maurice Stringer

Chris Windsor

Jeffries. Wheeler is a 6-foot-195-pounder with loads of natural ability.

If it's an option quarterback you're looking for, **Chris Windsor** of Bessemer Jess Lanier may be the best in the state. Windsor is an A student who ran Jess Lanier's precise wishbone offense well enough to take last year's 6A state championship. Oklahoma and Colorado have given him a serious look in their quest to continue their option traditions.

Sydrick Woody, a fullback from Springville High, is a cousin of Alabama's Rock Woody. Rated behind Watts as the state's number two fullback by most accounts, Woody is short and stocky at 5-11, 210, and has 4.7 speed in the 40. College scouts like his power and strength inside.

At least three of the state's top running backs, **Cedrick Kendrick** of Alex City Benjamin Russell, **Eric Turner** of Fort Payne and **Gantry Powell** of Birmingham Woodlawn, saw their scholarship hopes dealt a blow when they went down with knee injuries. Kendrick was rated as the state's number 12 prospect by *The Birmingham News* before suffering his injury two weeks before the season began. Coach Steve Savarese says colleges are still writing him, but he was not expected to return this season. Powell, also a kicker, injured himself midway through his senior season while running live kicking drills in practice.

"Thanks For The Memories"

Coach Bryant's Football Family

The Alabama "A" Club Educational and Charitable Foundation, chartered on the suggestion of Coach Bryant shortly after the death of Pat Trammell, is a non-profit organization which provides assistance for the families of former Crimson Tide athletes in all sports. The Foundation also contributes a scholarship in the Bryant-Jordan Scholarship Program of the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame.

A fund-raising project of the Foundation is a book of the memories of many of Coach Bryant's former players, assistant coaches and other associates. This 9x12 150-page, beautifully-bound volume featuring a gold metalique bust of Coach Bryant on the cover, is available only through the "A" Club Foundation. There are over 200 personal memories about Coach Bryant in this volume from the men who knew him and loved him best.

In addition to the stirring memories of many of Alabama's football greats, the book includes dozens of rare photographs and an introductory biography of Coach Bryant written by 'BAMA editor Kirk McNair.

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Kaiser Committed To Sign

by Kirk McNair

Birmingham star will join Tide in early period; some others may also sign

Wade Kaiser

Marvin Orange

Tshombe High

The early week-long period for high school and junior college transfer basketball players to sign scholarships begins November 13, and Alabama Head Basketball Coach Wimp Sanderson knows he is going to add at least one future player to the Crimson Tide program.

Wade Kaiser, almost unanimously considered the most outstanding senior basketball player in Alabama, announced earlier this year he would sign with Alabama. Kaiser is preparing for his senior season under Coach George Hatchett at Vestavia Hills High School.

It is not known how many players Alabama will sign in the early period. Indeed, there is some question how many players Bama will sign all year. Next year the NCAA limit on scholarshipped players drops from 15 to 14. Sanderson will probably lose four players from this year's team. He has three seniors–Robert Horry, Latrell Sprewell and Darby Rich. Rich has already been redshirted and this is his last year of eligibility. If Horry and/or Sprewell was injured, a redshirt would be a possibility. There is also some question about Marcus Webb, a senior who has not been redshirted, but who is not eligible for the fall semester, at least. If he does not play this year he would, theoretically, be eligible to return for another year. However, Sanderson is certainly aware of attrition other than through completion of eligibility. Injury, academic deficiency, loss of interest, disillusionment, *ad infinitum* cause losses, so Bama may sign as many quality players as possible.

Kaiser is a 6-9, 185-pound inside player who averaged 19.1 points, 8.5 rebounds and 3 steals per game as a junior and led his team to a 25-6 record. He hit 57 per cent from the field and 75 per cent of his free throws. He had a top game of 43 points and 14 rebounds. He was second team all-state last season and will be starting for the fourth year this season. It could hardly be considered a surprise that Kaiser is an outstanding basketball player. His father, James, played at Oklahoma in the early 1960s, as did an uncle, and his brother, Tim, played at Bama a few years ago. Kaiser selected Alabama over Oklahoma and UCLA. He is an excellent student who is already eligible.

A handful of prospects are being listed with Alabama as the early signing period nears. While Alabama coaches cannot comment on prospects, the names get out as the players announce recruiting visits they plan to take.

It doesn't take a magazine editor to see that Alabama needs to sign at least one point guard for the future. The number one point guard name being bandied about is **Marvin Orange**, a 6-1, 175-pound guard at Irmo, South Carolina. Orange has visited Cincinnati and Virginia and was scheduled to visit Bama the weekend of November 2 and Wake Forest the weekend of November 9, said his coach, Tim Whipple. Orange has led his team into the state championship finals the past two years and last year poured in 26 points in the title game as Irmo won the crown. He averaged 15 points, 6 assists and 3 rebounds per game last year as Irmo was 29-2. He has a 35-inch vertical jump, has the necessary core grades, and is waiting to hear on results of his standardized test. Whipple said he expected Orange to sign early. One possible problem: a fraternity/sorority swap at Alabama allegedly had a theme considered racist by black Bama students and newspaper reports of that controversy were zipped to Orange by an anti-Alabama person.

Anthony Brown is a 6-5, 195-pound swing player at Lakewood High School in St. Petersburg, Florida, the same school that produced former Tider Anthony Lawrence. He plays for Coach Dan Wright and has been a starter since the 10th grade. Last year he averaged 22 points per game with a single game best of 31 points. He was all-county and honorable mention all-state and this year is a preseason All-America. He played on Florida's 17-and-under and 19-and-under AAU teams last summer. He has a 2.4 grade point average but is waiting to hear on his standardized test results. In addition to Bama, Brown is considering Texas, North Carolina State and South Florida. His coach said he would visit Alabama November 2, then decide whether to sign in the early period. Brown told *The Tuscaloosa News* Bama is in the lead.

Tshombe High plays for his uncle, Robert High, at Brainerd High School in Chattanooga. The 6-4, 185-pound wing player is capable of playing either guard or small forward, but his coach expects him to be a wing guard in college. Last year he averaged 12.5 points and 10 rebounds per game for a team that went 25-8 and won the district championship. High earned all-city, all-district and honorable mention all-state. He had a top game of 28 points. He is said to be considering Miami, Syracuse and Kentucky, as well as Alabama, but he has also visited Texas A&M and plans to visit Old Dominion. Will he sign early? "Hopefully," said his uncle/coach.

From the junior college ranks, Bama is reportedly looking at a former Tuscaloosa Central High School star. **Shon Peck Love** starred with the Falcons a couple of years ago, but went to Three Rivers Community College in Missouri, the same school that sent Latrell Sprewell to the Tide. Tom Barr, an assistant coach at Three Rivers, said he would compare Love "very favorably" to Sprewell, who was a junior college All-America. Last year as a freshman the 6-5, 195-pound Love, who is a small forward, averaged 19.8 points and 10.5 rebounds per game. Barr said that while Love has received recruiting interest from a number of schools, "I think he is leaning towards signing with

Alabama in the early period."

Bama never had a chance for one highly-rated player in the state of Alabama. Lance Weems of Clay County grew up an Auburn fan and was an early commitment to Auburn.

Alabama has traditionally produced a number of top basketball players, and this year there is a long list of those showing up in various reports. However, it may be the Crimson Tide will go out of state for additional signees in the early period. If Bama does stay in state (either in the early period or in the late period, April 15-May 15), the list of prospects could include (in alphabetical order):

Jeremy Bearden, 6-8, forward, Gardendale; Neil Brown, 6-3, guard, Birmingham Jackson-Olin; Curtis Davis, guard, Decatur; Deartus Goodman, 6-0, guard, Birmingham Carver; David Guthrie, 6-2, guard, Birmingham Berry; Nigel Hodges, 5-11, guard, Birmingham Parker; David Kilgore, 6-9, forward, Walker of Jasper; John Oliver, 6-3, guard, Dallas County of Plantersville; William Rice, 6-6, forward, Jackson-Olin; George Scott, Enterprise; Anthony Thomas, 6-6, forward, Birmingham Woodlawn; Willie Walker, 6-6, forward, Greenville; Marco Whitfield, guard, Decatur; and Darryl Wilson, 6-1, guard, South Lamar in Millport.

Alabama's now long-established basketball success has given the Crimson Tide entrée with a number of the nation's top prospects and, as has been the case in football for decades, many leading players around the nation routinely list Bama as one of the schools in which they are interested. However, it takes two to be interested and sometimes early interest on the part of one party or the other wanes as the recruiting process continues. Among those who have been reported as perhaps being interested in Alabama at one point, but who no longer seem to be likely Crimson Tide signees in the early period at least are:

Terrell Bell, a center from Cedar Shoals High in Athens, Georgia; Stanley Caldwell of Union City, Tennessee; Bo Cohn, a 6-3 guard at Glen, Mississippi, Alcorn Central; Ken Conley, the 6-8, 220-pound inside player at Coffeyville (Kansas) Junior College who is the nephew of current Tider Andre Perry, also out of Coffeyville; Marlon Dorsey of Shelby, Mississippi; Eric Dortch, a 6-7 forward at Pensacola, Florida; twins Sammy and Simeon Haley, 6-11 centers at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; Sterling Hicks, a 6-2 guard at Columbus (Georgia) Carver; Steve Homer, a 6-11 center in Middleton, Tennessee; Andy Pennington, a 6-4 guard at Madisonville, Tennessee; Steve Rich, a 6-9 center at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Cardinal Gibbons; Carlos Turner, a 6-6 forward at Fairdale, Kentucky; and DeJuan Wheat, a 6-2 guard at Louisville (Kentucky) Ballard. The Haley twins and Conley are among those who announced they would not be early signees.

Incidentally, Alabama was never in the running for one of the nation's best-known prospects, Othello Harrington, the 6-9 center from Murrah High School in Jackson, Mississippi, from whence came current Tider James Robinson.

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Results Of Alabama's Football Opponents

Team	Aug. 31	Sept. 7	Sept. 14	Sept. 21	Sept. 28	Oct. 5	Oct. 12	Oct. 19	Oct. 26	Nov. 2	Nov. 9	Nov. 16	Nov. 23	Nov. 30
TEMPLE Owls Philadelphia, Pa.		**@ ALABAMA (Birmingham)** 3-41	@ Pittsburgh 7-26	@ Clemson 7-37	Howard 40-0	Penn State 7-24	@ West Virginia 9-10	Navy 21-14		@ Syracuse	Boston College	@ Rutgers	Akron	
FLORIDA Gators Gainesville, Fla.		San Jose State 59-21	**ALABAMA (Gainesville)** 35-0	@ Syracuse 21-38	Mississippi State (Orlando) 29-7	@ LSU 16-0	Tennessee 35-18	Northern Illinois 41-10		@ Auburn	Georgia (Jacksonville)	Kentucky		Florida State
GEORGIA Bulldogs Athens, Ga.	Western Carolina 48-0	LSU 31-10		**@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa)** 0-10	Cal-State Fullerton 27-14	Clemson 27-12	@ Ole Miss 37-17	@ Vanderbilt 25-27	Kentucky 49-27		Florida (Jacksonville)	Auburn		@ Georgia Tech
VANDERBILT Commodores Nashville, Tenn.		@ Syracuse 10-37	SMU 14-11	LSU 14-16	**ALABAMA (Nashville)** 7-42	@ Duke 13-17	Auburn 22-24	Georgia 27-25	@ Ole Miss 30-27	@ Army	Kentucky			@ Tennessee
U-T-CHATTANOOGA Moccasins Chattanooga, Tenn.	Tennessee-Martin 21-14	Tennessee Tech 41-14		The Citadel 33-26	@ Appalachian State 7-42	**@ ALABAMA (Birmingham)** 7-53		@ Western Carolina 24-27	Marshall 38-31	Western Kentucky	@ East Tennessee State	@ Furman	VMI	
TULANE Green Wave New Orleans, La.	Ole Miss 3-22	@ Florida State 11-38	@ Mississippi State 0-48	Rice 19-28	Syracuse 0-24	SMU 17-31	**@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa)** 0-62	@ Southern Miss 14-47		@ East Carolina	Navy		LSU	
TENNESSEE Volunteers Knoxville, Tenn.		Sept. 5 @ Louisville 28-11	UCLA 30-16	Mississippi State 26-24	Auburn 30-21		@ Florida 18-35	**@ ALABAMA (Birmingham)** 19-24		Memphis State	@ Notre Dame	Ole Miss	@ Kentucky	Vanderbilt
MISSISSIPPI STATE Bulldogs Starkville, Miss.	Cal State-Fullerton 47-3	Texas 13-6	Tulane 48-0	@ Tennessee 24-26	Florida (Orlando) 7-29		Kentucky 31-6	Memphis State 23-28	@ Auburn 24-17	**@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa) 11:40 CST (WTBS)**		@ LSU	Ole Miss	
LSU Fighting Tigers Baton Rouge, La.		@ Georgia 10-31	@ Texas A&M 7-45	Vanderbilt 16-14		Florida 0-16	Arkansas State 70-14	@ Kentucky 29-26	Florida State 16-27	@ Ole Miss	**ALABAMA (Baton Rouge) 7:00 CST**	Mississippi State	@ Tulane	
MEMPHIS STATE Tigers Memphis, Tenn.	Sept. 2 @ Southern Cal 24-10	Ole Miss 0-10	@ East Carolina 13-20	Arkansas State 31-21		@ Missouri 21-31	Southern Miss 17-12	@ Mississippi State 28-23	Tulsa 28-33	@ Tennessee	Louisville	**ALABAMA (Memphis) 1:30 CST**		
AUBURN Tigers Auburn, Ala.	Georgia Southern 32-17		Ole Miss 23-13	@ Texas 14-10	@ Tennessee 21-30	Southern Miss 9-10	@ Vanderbilt 24-22		Mississippi State 17-24	Florida	Southwest Louisiana	@ Georgia		**ALABAMA (Birmingham) 1:30 CST**

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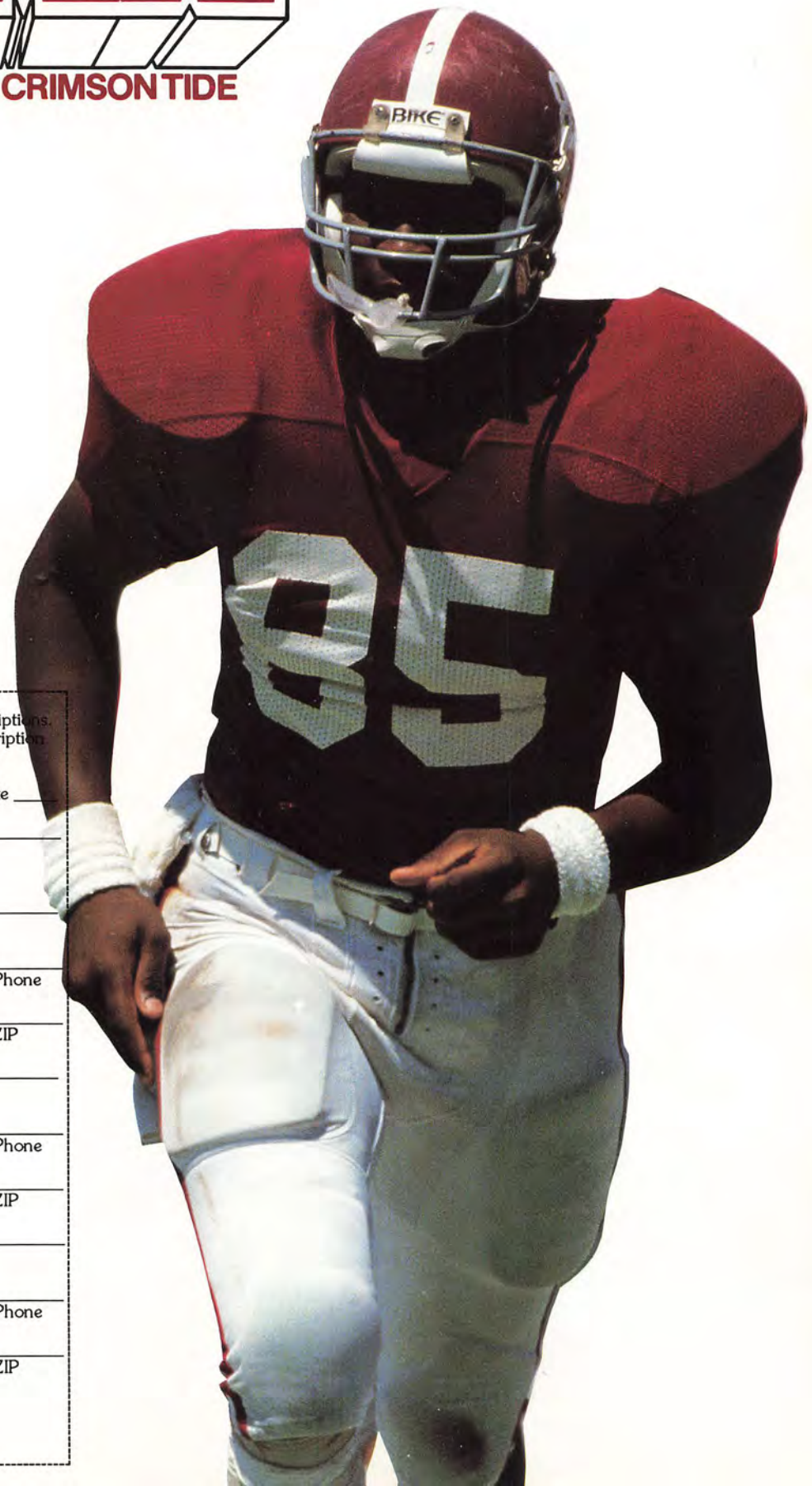

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